IAA Student Profile: Levels of Symbolic Communication

Level 1:	Students at the Awareness level may have no clear response, intent, or objective in communication.
Awareness	Students may or may not alert or respond to sensory input. They communicate by such means as:
	• Cries
	Postural shifting
	Limb movements
	Head movements
	Facial expressions
	Vocalization
Level 2:	Students at the Pre-symbolic level demonstrate purposeful, intentional communication but do not yet use symbolic
Pre	communication.
Symbolic	Beginning symbol use: recognize pictures, but mostly need objects paired with photographs.
	They communicate by such means as:
	Gestures (moving toward objects or people)
	Eye gaze (looking at objects or people)
	Purposeful moving to object
	• Sounds
Level 3:	Students at the Early symbolic are beginning to use symbols for communication with limited vocabulary.
Early	• Forward moving with symbols: recognize a small number of picture symbols and a larger number of known/ familiar objects
Symbolic	and use these symbolically
(Concrete)	They communicate by such means as:
	• Objects
	Tactile symbols
	Digital photographs
	Picture icons
Level 4:	Students at the Symbolic demonstrate knowledge of concepts through words and/or actions
Symbolic	Speak with a vocabulary of words, signs, and pictures
(Abstract)	• Extensive use of symbols: communicate by such means as: Speech; ASL; Dynamic Display Devices with extensive vocabulary
	• They can read sight words and sentences with picture symbols, writes sight words and/ or circle pictures of vocabulary words